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SUBJECT: ARMENIA: UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE 2008
HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES

REF: SECSTATE 95334

(SBU) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director of the Department for International Organizations, Dziunik Aghajanian, on September 15. Poloff followed up by phone with Aghajanian on September 8th to confirm Armenia's position vis-a-vis the Third Committee Resolutions on the Human Rights Situations in Burma, Iran, and The DPRK, as well as other items outlined in ref. Aghajanian responded that her government would not take a position on the country specific resolutions until late September, and that Armenia would likely abstain on any resolution regarding the defamation of religions. Concerning U.S. actions to pass a resolution criticizing Zimbabwe for its deteriorating human rights situation, Aghajanian wanted to know the stance of the African Union and was unable to give a definitive response on the position of her government.

Aghajanian appreciated post's efforts to keep the MFA apprised of U.S. priorities for the UNGA.

PENNINGTON